Presidents Who Served in the Armed Forces

In 1879, Congress declared George Washington's birthday a federal holiday. It has since become commonly known as Presidents Day and is celebrated annually on the third Monday in February to honor all U.S. presidents. This year we commemorate those presidents who served in our military.



James A. Garfield Major General, U.S. Army (Volunteers) 1861–1863



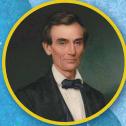
Harry S. Truman
Colonel, Army Officer Reserve Corps
1919–1945



Thomas Jefferson Colonel, Virginia Militia 1770–1779



Jimmy Carter Lieutenant, U.S. Navy 1946–1953



Abraham Lincoln Captain, Illinois Militia 1832



William McKinley
Brevet Major, U.S. Army (Volunteers)
1861–1865



George Bush Lieutenant (junior grade), U.S. Navy 1942–1945

James Monroe Major, Continental Army



Ulysses S. Grant General, U.S. Army 1866–1869



Ronald Reagan Captain, U.S. Army 1942–1945



Millard Fillmore Major, Union Continentals (home guard) 1861



John Tyler Captain, Virginia Militia 1812



Dwight D. Eisenhower General of the Army, U.S. Army 1915–1948, 1951–1952



James BuchananPrivate, Pennsylvania Militia
1814



Richard M. Nixon Commander, U.S. Naval Reserve 1942–1966



Chester A. Arthur Brigadier General, New York Militia 1858-1863



George Washington General and Commander in Chief Continental Army 1775-1783



Theodore Roosevelt Colonel, U.S. Army (Volunteers) 1898



Benjamin Harrison Brevet Brigadier General, U.S. Army (Volunteers) 1862-1865



John F. Kennedy Lieutenant, U.S. Naval Reserve 1941-1945



Rutherford B. Hayes Major General, U.S. Army (Volunteers) 1861-1865



William Henry Harrison Major General, Kentucky Militia 1812-1814



Andrew Jackson Major General, U.S. Army 1814–1821





George W. Bush First Lieutenant, Texas Air National Guard 1968-1973



Gerald R. Ford, Jr Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Naval Reserve 1942–1946



Franklin Pierce Brigadier General, New Hampshire Militia 1846-1848



Andrew Johnson Brigadier General, U.S. Army (Volunteers) 1862-1865



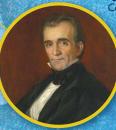
James Madison Colonel, Virginia Militia 1775–1781



Zachary Taylor Major General, U.S. Army 1805-1815, 1816-1849



Lyndon B. Johnson Commander, U.S. Naval Reserve 1940-1964



James K. Polk Colonel, Tennessee Militia 1821